

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT	International Association of Democratic Lawyers	DATE DISTR.	4 November 1953
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1. The Venezuelan Association of Democratic Lawyers (VADL), which was formed in Caracas on 1 September 1949, and which is affiliated with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), is a thinly disguised Communist organization composed of a handful of lawyers completely controlled by the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV).
2. The VADL organizers enjoyed some success in the early stages of its development in attracting non-Communist attorneys - principally from among the younger group - to its organization. The organizers, however, as time went on, experienced difficulty in enlisting the support of such members for its propaganda and political activities. For example, on certain occasions the VADL has attempted to have its members sign petitions to the President or to the Congress, requesting freedom for certain political prisoners, or for similar purposes, but found few among the rank and file who were willing to sign the petitions. Today the VADL membership has been reduced to those who work openly in the cause of Communism and to members of the Pro-Peace movement.
3. During the first week of October, an unnamed Brazilian lawyer arrived in Caracas and approached members of the Venezuelan association of Democratic Lawyers. His mission was: 1. to stir up enthusiasm for the Second Continental Conference of American Lawyers; 2. to encourage jurists and lawyers to attend the Second Continental Conference of American Lawyers to be held in Guatemala, 12 - 15 November 1953; and, 3. to see that Venezuela is represented at the next Continental Cultural Congress, scheduled to take place in Brazil the latter part of October.
4. The VADL hoped to send at least six lawyers to Guatemala,¹ of whom two would probably go on to Brussels. On 4 October 1953, bonds were circulated among the members in an attempt to raise funds to cover the expenses of the Venezuelan delegation, and on 6 October those chosen to attend the meeting in Guatemala were to be picked. The Venezuelan delegate to the Continental Cultural Congress had not been designated, but Hector MUJICA, writer and newspaperman, was the probable choice.

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5. Octavio ANDRADE Delgado and Pedro BARRIOS Guzman¹ were expected to be members of the Venezuelan delegation chosen to attend the meeting in Guatemala, with ANDRADE as delegate to the Brussels Conference also.

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1. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Comment Octavio ANDRADE Delgado is president of the Venezuelan Association of Democratic Lawyers, a former Minister of the Supreme Court of Venezuela, and a professor in the Law School of Caracas. Pedro BARRIOS Guzman is secretary of relations of the Venezuelan Association of Democratic Lawyers, and is the intermediary through which Brazilian headquarters maintains relations with affiliated Venezuelan lawyers. According to the Tribuna Popular, dated 27 April 1948, Pedro BARRIOS Guzman was a member of the National Labor Commission of the Federal District of the Communist Party.

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